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Security Information

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

3 May 1952

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Procurement of Lek

1. On April 28th [] of FD appeared to discuss Lek requirements with this branch and SO-1. He reported that late last week [] had visited his office and had requested that [] contact the interested branches and determine the Lek requirements on a phased basis. [] pointed out that our original requirements were determined on a 12 month period and stated it would be advantageous if he could discover how much the branches wanted on a month to month basis. Speaking for the branch I replied it was impossible to give a specific breakdown but stated the critical period had already been reached and would continue over the next 3 months, explaining I had hopes of procuring Lek through our agent channels as soon as they were established. Consequently, our need was immediate to enable us to establish these agent nets. Being more specific I gave him the figure of [] Leks in any denomination he could provide over the next four months.

2. [] repeated his familiar story by chapter and verse stating that he had foreseen the need as long as a year ago and had solicited the service of SO 9 months ago when his sources had dried up during the summer of 1951 as he had foreseen. He mentioned that in his opinion top officials of the agency concerned with the problem were not serious about reproduction. Further, he went to the defense of []

[] explaining it was unfair to castigate him as he had only been responsible for this matter for approximately 4 months. [] also tried to sell us the use of gold and also made a great point of claiming our stated needs were excessive and amounted to something in the neighborhood of 10% of Albanian currency in circulation. I challenged this statement in my mind at that time and called him on it on April 29th when I learned that he had pursued this attack when he discussed this matter with [] and [] on the afternoon of April 28th.

3. Regarding the meeting between [] and [] mentioned in the preceding paragraph, [] advised me that as far as he could see a complete stalemate had been reached and approved a P cable to the field agreeing that a violent outburst might pry the matter loose. Another sideline on this matter worth recording is that a cable went to Belgrade on April 30th at []'s suggestion asking that station to investigate procurement of Lek.

Sam

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